

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2009

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: K. Clark, L. Ferguson, K. Halpin

Absent: P. Huizenga, L. Starita

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting

The Washington Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting was called to order and the "Open Public Meetings Act" read into the Record. The meeting was duly advertised and posted on the Bulletin Board for Wednesday, May 13, 2009. A Motion was made by K. Clark and seconded by L. Ferguson that the minutes be approved with no corrections for the meeting of April 8, 2009.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Green Communities Grant- The Shade Tree Commission's consultant, Paul Cowie provided a checklist of specific items he will need to begin developing the Second 5-Year Community Forestry Management Plan. A large portion of the information can be obtained from the Shade Tree's current Management Plan. A Motion was made by K. Halpin and seconded by K. Clark to schedule a special meeting on May 27 to gather the necessary material and forward it to Paul as soon as possible.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0

The Express Times will be notified about this Special Meeting date for public awareness.

2. Cool Cities Community Grant- The tree planting inspections have been rescheduled for May 29, 2009. K. Halpin will accompany Joe Bennett through this process. This is the final phase of the Grant.
3. 98 Youmans Avenue- Owner requested to have a declining Norway Maple removed. The owners received a letter in 2008 stating that the Commission would review their request when the 2009 Budget was completed and approved. The owners would like an update on when their tree will be trimmed/removed. K. Halpin suggested that Chairman, L. Starita contact the homeowners since Lou took the original pictures in September 2008.

4. Arbor Day-The Shade Tree Commission was unable to plan any activities at Taylor Street School. K. Halpin suggested that P. Huizenga contact Tree City USA to confirm that a Proclamation can be read on an alternate date in order to maintain our approved status.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 101 Belvidere Ave.- Owner (Michael Yates) was granted approval to replace a R.O.W. tree at his own expense and plant it within the property boundary. The Commission has the owner's intentions on a written statement which will be filed with the April 8th Minutes.
This request also brought attention to the fact that the present R.O.W. cards need to be updated in the future. The measurements for 101 Belvidere Avenue were not accurate.
2. 118 North Prospect St.- Owner (Angel Rios) requests to have his R.O.W. tree trimmed. K. Halpin commented that the owner can have the tree trimmed at his own expense if he submits the name of the professional service used for the job. This is to ensure that it is properly pruned to protect the general health of the tree.
3. 13 Grand Avenue- Owner (Joseph Karslo) reported a large loose limb in his R.O.W. tree. K. Halpin evaluated the situation and will contact John Burd at the Borough's Road Dept. to see if they can remove the limb.
4. 82-84 East Church Street- Owner (Michael Chobot) has an old Mulberry Tree and requested information on maintaining this species. Mr. Chobot was also curious about any grants that may be available to preserve his Mulberry Tree. K. Halpin provided the owner with the number for the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry. She also suggested that he contact Dan Rotondo from Bartlett Tree Experts.
5. 52 Grand Ave.- Owner (Jenn Briganti) reported curb & sidewalk damage from the roots of her R.O.W. tree. The Maple Tree is on the Shade Tree Commission's list for trimming this year. K. Halpin will ask L. Starita to contact the homeowner regarding their responsibility to maintain any sidewalk damage that borders property lines.
K. Halpin also noted that the extent of issues on Grand Avenue needs to be addressed to Council. She plans to meet with Borough Manager, Rich Phelan and submit a written request to allocate sufficient funds to trim/remove Borough trees on Grand Avenue that pose a threat to public safety.
6. 22 Lambert St.- Owner (Marie Robinson) received a Golden Raintree from the Cool Cities Grant and was concerned that the tree was not budding. L. Ferguson visited the location and took pictures indicating that the tree was still dormant. K. Halpin suggested that the homeowner wait until the first week in June to see if any changes occur. The tree is guaranteed from JML Landscaping if it needs to be replaced. L. Ferguson will relay this information to the Robinsons.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by K. Halpin and seconded by L. Ferguson that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fleming